

ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL)
REGULAR MEETING)
JANUARY 27, 2003)

PRESENT: Chairman Gunnells, Vice Chairman Brown, Larry Walker, Claude Thomas, John Calhoun, David Forrester, Billy Norris, Director Burns and Attorney Pruitt

- I. Chairman Gunnells called the meeting to order with prayer given by Vice-Chairman Brown.
- II. The first item on the agenda was approval of the January 13, 2003, minutes. A motion was made by Council Member Brown to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- III. The second item on the agenda was a presentation by Pastor Lloyd Thomas regarding the usage of the Old Wright Middle School. Pastor Thomas highlighted many of the proposed uses for the building, and stressed to the Council the importance of renovating this structure and providing it to the community. No action was taken following the presentation.
- IV. The third item on the agenda was committee reports. Only two committees gave reports. The Intergovernmental Relations Committee chaired by David Forrester recommends that three people be appointed to the Fire Commission. They are Sherry Fleming, Ernie Kitchen and Hobart Erickson. Council Member Billy Norris made a motion that these three individuals be appointed to the Fire Commission. Council Member Larry Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0. The Ad-Hoc Committee on Office Space chaired by Chairman Gunnells then gave a general presentation. The Chairman asked the County Director to discuss their meeting. Director Burns gave a brief overview of the meeting including the corrective measures that have already been taken to ensure that former problems do not occur again. The general consensus of the committee is that the problems are in communication, and that they are attempting to correct these problems. They also believe that a policy needs to be developed to control the use of the auditorium in the County Office Building.
- V. The fourth item on the agenda as the use of Title III funds. The Chairman informed the audience that the Council has already voted on the usage of the Title III funds, and that the former vote stands. He requested the County Director to inform the Soil and Water Conservation District of this vote, and to request that they provide the County with the proposed uses and amounts of monies for each program they intend to implement.
- VI. The fifth item on the agenda was an ordinance to extend the boundaries of the Donalds-Due West Water and Sewer Special Purpose District. This item was tabled at the last meeting, and it remained on the table.
- VII. The sixth item on the agenda was consideration of second reading of an ordinance to amend Ordinance 3-7-77 regulating the placement, size, height

and location of off-premise signage in Abbeville County. A motion was made by Council Member Claude Thomas to approve second reading of the Ordinance. Council Member Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

- VIII.** The seventh item on the agenda was a discussion on the Old Wright Middle School. The Council directed the County Director to speak with the Superintendent of the School District to discuss the possibilities of separating the land and the building on this property. Further, they instructed the Director to speak with the City of Abbeville to determine if they are interested in the building.
- IX.** The eighth item on the agenda is the EMS contract. This was moved to Executive Session given that it is a contractual matter.
- X.** The ninth item on the agenda is the payment of \$125,000 worth of invoices from DRE, Inc. to the Donalds-Due West Water and Sewer Special Purpose District. This is part of the \$1.7 million pledge the County made to the Highway 81 waterline. A motion was made by Council Member Walker to pay these invoices. Council Member Scott Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- XI.** The tenth item on the agenda was a resolution approving the recommendations of the Accommodations Tax Committee regarding the expenditure of Accommodation Tax monies. A motion was made by Council Member Forrester to appropriate the funds as recommended. Council Member Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- XII.** The eleventh item on the agenda as a resolution transferring \$100,000 from the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) account to the general fund. A motion was made by Council Member Scott Brown to transfer the funds. It motion was seconded by Council Member Billy Norris. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- XIII.** The twelfth item on the agenda was a discussion on the date, time and place of the 2003 meetings. A motion was made by Chairman Gunnells to table this issue. Council Member Billy Norris seconded it. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The County Director then provided an update on several projects. Among them are the Compensation and Classification Plan. The Plan is on schedule and a report due to the County Director by mid-February. Director Burns then announced the hiring of Patricia Gordon as the new County Planner. He gave a brief overview of her background, and welcomed her to Abbeville County. Her first day is scheduled to be February 3, 2003. He informed Council that budget packages have been sent out, and provided a tentative budget schedule to Council. He informed them that the schedule should provide some leeway for action. Finally he mentioned Hagan Road and the request to upgrade the line to a 6" line for fire protection. Again the Council requested that a capital plan be provided to the Council before any action is taken.

A motion was then made by Council Member Forrester to go into Executive Session. Council Member Billy Norris seconded it. The motion carried 7-0-0. Once they came out of Executive Session a motion was made by Council Member Billy Norris to allow

staff to enter into a consent agreement with DHEC regarding the landfill. Council Member Larry Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

A motion was made by Council Billy Norris to adjourn. John Calhoun seconded it. The motion carried 7-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:00.